

In the Specification:

Please rewrite the paragraph starting on page 1, line 3, as follows:

-- ~~Description:~~ This application is the national stage of International application PCT/CH03/00042, filed January 21, 2003, designating the U.S., whose contents is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. --

Please rewrite the paragraph starting and ending on page 1, line 5, as follows:

-- ~~Prior-art~~ Background of the Invention --

Please insert the following new paragraphs on page 1, after line 27:

-- Summary of the Invention

The invention pertains to a musical instrument, in particular for musical creation and instruction, characterized in that at least part of the surface has a regular or an irregular structure (fig. 2). The ribbings of the musical instrument can differ in design, in particular (fig. 4) wavy, rectangle, triangle. The wavelengths of the ribbing can be between 0.001 mm and 250 mm, in particular 1 to 12 mm, specifically 3, 6 or 12 mm. In one embodiment, the musical instrument is cut to the desired length from a roll by the user. The instrument can be provided with a graduation or a predetermined breaking point for the precise cutting into lengths. The musical instrument may be fixed by means of its configuration on an appropriate base in a rail, a mount or by means of an adhesive device. Each different frequency of the musical instrument may be identified by a different color. The musical instrument can be constructed from modules (fig.5) which may be combined.

The invention is further directed to a module for the above musical instrument having a coupling on two opposite sides A and B enabling the module to be

connected rigidly to other modules. The coupling may be constructed in such a manner that the individual modules can be connected both to opposite sides A-B and also to the sides A-A (figs 5 and 6). In a preferred embodiment, the surface of the module takes one of the following configurations:

- a) the entire surface is ribbed, or
- b) $\frac{1}{2}$ of the surface is ribbed and the other half flat, or
- c) the surface is alternately $\frac{1}{4}$ ribbed, $\frac{1}{4}$ flat, $\frac{1}{4}$ ribbed and again $\frac{1}{4}$ flat, or
- d) $\frac{1}{4}$ of the surface is ribbed and $\frac{3}{4}$ flat, or
- e) $\frac{3}{4}$ of the surface are ribbed and $\frac{1}{4}$ flat, or
- f) $\frac{1}{4}$ of the surface is ribbed, $\frac{1}{4}$ flat and the rest ribbed, or
- g) $\frac{1}{4}$ of the surface is flat, $\frac{1}{4}$ ribbed and the rest flat, or
- h) $\frac{1}{4}$ of the surface is ribbed, $\frac{1}{2}$ flat and the rest ribbed again, or
- i) $\frac{1}{4}$ of the surface is flat, $\frac{1}{2}$ ribbed and the rest flat again, or
- j) the entire module is flat, or
- k) there are individual ribs in the flat module.

(figs 3a-k)

The module may contain a guide (1) transversely to the ribbing for stabilizing a device for holding a playing aid. The guide also permits curves and branches. The module may also have four sides A, B, C, D, characterized in that there is a coupling on all of the sides A, B, C and D enabling the module to be connected rigidly in any desired direction to other modules.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1 shows a Guiro.

Figure 2 shows an instrument for scratching.

Figure 3 a to k show individual modules according to the present invention.

Figure 4 shows a ribbing according to the present invention.

Figure 5 shows a module according to the present invention.

Figure 6 depicts a coupling piece. - -

Please rewrite the paragraph starting and ending on page 1, line 29 as follows:

-- ~~Description of the invention~~ Various and Preferred Embodiments --

Please rewrite the paragraph starting on page 1, line 31 as follows:

-- In the case of the musical instrument according to ~~patent claim 1~~ the present invention, a sound is produced in the same manner as when playing the "Guiro" (fig. 1), a Latin American rhythm instrument comprising a longish gourd having a regularly notched surface, by scratching it with the fingernail or playing it with a playing aid. In contrast to the "Guiro" or else to the percussion instrument "skiffle board", in the case of the musical instrument according to the invention, relative sounds can be built up from individual modules or sections. Musical instruments therefore also differ from sound-recording media, such as the record or road grooves which can be moved over, which are based on the same principle as producing sound, in precisely the same manner as an electric piano differs from a radio. The transverse grooves on the carriageway produce sounds, notes and sequences of notes in interaction with the tires of vehicles traveling over them. However, the recipient, as in the case of the radio set, can only have an effect on the creation to a very limited extent: drive over it versus not drive over it or switch on versus switch off. For this reason, the use of the corresponding sound production principle on public roads does not involve a musical instrument in the actual sense. --

Please delete on page 3, lines 5 to 14.